

The Consul's Dilemma

By Harold Ballagh

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"I can tell you a better story than that."

"Go ahead."

"A cousin of mine—forty-second degree, as they count in the south—was rather deaf. This man—I'll call him Allitson—was our Consul-General in Yokohama. One hot morning two big Danes, American citizens, appeared at the consulate. A Japanese woman, clattering unmusically along on her clogs, walked between them."

"Do you take the job to marry a man?" asked one of the big fellows.

"Well, hardly," said the Marshal, who met him. "but I'll speak to the Consul."

"What d'y say?" asked Bill Allitson, drawing his brows together and turning his good ear towards the Marshal. "Oh, exactly: they want to get married, do they? Well, get their names and show 'em into the office. Now, boys, just stop your grinning."

"Jim Bates and I pulled as solemn faces as we could and stood up behind the Consul."

"The wedding party, very shame-faced, came rolling in. Evidently they were scattering gentlemen. The woman had a wholesome, honest look, but was no beauty in my eyes."

"You are citizens of the United States?" questioned the Consul.

"Ja, just so," nodded the men.

"They lined up in front of Allitson, the woman still in the middle."

"The Consul took up a dog-eared Prayer-Book, kept for the purpose, and turned to the marriage service. The

nant glance, and solemnly went over the ceremony with the right parties, who were none the wiser.

"After they had registered and each received a marriage certificate with a huge United States seal on it, they departed, shuffling down the wide walk."

"Allitson was one of the leading lawyers of his state."

"As well as we were able for roaring with laughter, we put these questions to him:

"Your Honor, said I, 'we claim that this is a case of bigamy, as two men have been married to this woman, and no divorce—'

"Your Honor," said Bates, "acting for the defendant, we would claim that my client has not been guilty of bigamy. We admit that my client has had two men married to her this day, but she has been married to only one man."

"Allitson stopped grinning, put on his most judicial look, and said in his inimitable, ex-cathedra manner:

"The court decides that the American Consul-General at Yokohama has been guilty of suborning—of—bigamy in causing an innocent woman to be wholly married to one man and half married to another, and he is hereby fined—boy, bring the champagne!"

QUEER VIEWS OF STAGE LIFE

Good Story Illustrating the Commercialism of American Playhouses.

Office-boy insurance is one of the reasons why the stage isn't as pleasant a pursuit as it used to be, according to the experienced actors, the New York Times-Star says. "Nowadays," they say, "the theater is so thoroughly commercialized that its chief figures in management act and think precisely as they would if they were managing sweatshops. And the art of acting is itself in decline. One of the reasons is the insistence of the modern manager upon the employment of 'types.' Actors and actresses must physically fit the needs of the roles for which they are cast, instead of making themselves over to fit them, as in the old days."

However that may be, queer little stories turn up every now and then. The other day a young woman, in whose veins the very purest blood of Kentucky and Virginia runs, applied to a little, half-portion manager for a place she knew he had vacant. He gave one careless glance at her and shook his head.

"You won't do," said he. "I want a regular aristocrat for that job."

He doesn't know yet why the girl sat down in a sacred chair in his holy office and laughed helplessly until she finally went out, her eyes streaming tears of pure delight. Nor does he quite get the point of the jest of the girl that succeeded her, and whom he engaged for the "aristocratic" role. In the first rehearsal the little band-legged manager interfered. He scowled at the young woman and criticized her acting severely.

"Yes," said he, "don't even walk like an aristocrat. Ze here. You must walk like this."

And he strutted across the stage in what he believed to be an "aristocratic" walk. The girl gazed at him, with all her innocent young soul in her eyes. When he finished his parade he turned to her.

"Oh, yes," said she, brightly, "now I understand. See, I will walk just as you do."

She slumped across the stage in a flat-footed, duck-legged, pigeon-toed shambling.

"Now," she said, turning to the manager, "didn't I walk just as you think an aristocrat should?" He just barked at her.

"You are vired vor vibrantly mis-gondacting yourself," said he.

LONGEST TELEGRAPH CIRCUIT

Is 4,000 Miles Long, Extending from London to Teheran, in Persia.

Persia and its capital, Teheran, have been very much before the public lately, but probably few people are aware that the news which has come through to London has passed over the longest telegraphic circuit in the world, says the London Daily News.

The distance between London and Teheran by wire is 4,000 miles and the operator in Teheran communicates direct with the operator at the London end, automatic repeaters taking the place of operators at ten places along the circuit.

The first repeating station from London is at Lowestoft where the wires enter the North sea, beneath which they run for 200 miles to Emden, Hanover, where the second automatic repeater continues the message.

Thence it is flashed to Berlin, Warsaw, Roudo, Odessa, Kertch, Sukhum, Kaleh, Tiflis and Tauris, from each of which stations it is instantaneously forwarded without human intervention, the telegraphist at Teheran, who receives the message from Tauris, being the first operator to handle it since it left London. From Teheran the line then extends to India, but nowhere else is there a circuit so long as that between Teheran and London.

ANOTHER NEW CENT.



PEOPLE WILL AWAKE

MONOPOLY TRIUMPHANT BUT FOR THE MOMENT.

Ground Under the Wheels of Monopoly, There Will Come a Time When Voters Can No Longer Be Deceived.

In the west unusually high prices for beef are explained on the ground that the eastern demand is reckless and insistent, that only the choicest cuts are in favor and that the extraordinary hunger of the plutocracy is likely to create even a greater scarcity before snow flies. Here in New York the excuse is that supplies at the packing centers are diminishing and that if growers will not market cattle, consumers must pay dearly for meat or content themselves with the frugal lobster.

Those who have given much attention to the cost-of-living problem have found as many difficulties and contradictions as are presented by polar explorations. Witnesses do not agree. Facts do not coincide. Time, places and conditions are all in conflict. In the vast and complicated machine of production, transportation and distribution there is no one spot that can be located and of which it can be said, "Here is the source of the trouble."

Food is comparatively a small item in the cost of living, and yet what is true of that is true also of every other item. The tendency of prices is ever upward, and as most incomes are stationary it must be that thousands of Americans are falling backward in the social scale. Economies cannot be confined wholly to the table. They must cover rent, clothing, furniture, household conveniences and comforts, travel, amusement and even medical attention. There is plenty of room at the bottom.

It will not always be possible for statecraft resting wholly upon inflated values and high taxes and whose chief triumphs are colossal trusts and barbaric private fortunes to delude the large element which finds itself year by year becoming better acquainted with deprivation if not privation. Americans have been content as long as they could hope for progress. If that shall be denied to them their discontent will provide an issue one of these days which will make stand patism the political death-warrant of every man who practices it.—New York World.

Did Aldrich Overlook It?

In revising the tariff the congressmen put radium on the free list. This has turned out to be a terrible mistake in view of the recent find of pitchblende in California which will produce radium enough to supply the world with this valuable stuff for all time to come. Now here's an infant industry that should be protected, especially in view of the fact that this mineral which is produced abroad brings in only \$8,000,000 a pound, troy weight. Things ought to be fixed so the American product can be sold for twice that sum in this country. At least this is the theory upon which a good deal of the protective tariff has been built.—Topeka State Journal.

The Tariff Tragedy.

Not least among the tragedies of American history is the tragedy of the tariff. Greatest of all tariff tragedies is that which has just been enacted at Washington and indorsed by the president of these United States.

The tragedies of the poor are always terrible, and this new tariff, conceived in sin and greed, is essentially a tragedy of the poor. It decreases the poor man's earning power by increasing the cost of living. Every extra penny taxed upon the burden of the poor is a tragedy in thousands of humble homes.

Westerners New England Serfs.

The tolling west, where the country's real wealth is created, must be set to tariff overlords from New England. Western workers, their wives, their daughters, their little children are bound to the wheels of the protection juggernaut, to cushion the daily journey of New England mill bosses and their profligate families.

NOT REACHED BY THE "BOOM"

One Million Idle Workmen Give the Lie to Bombast of Speaker Cannon.

Industrial and trade conditions the country over, according to Speaker Cannon, "are booming to the everlasting skies as a result of the work of congress." Thanks to a beneficent tariff, affairs are in better shape than ever before in the industrial history of the nation. Factories are running overtime and labor is in demand at better wages.

John Mitchell's view of these rosy conditions as they affect labor is not so optimistic. Taking as a basis for comparison the statistics prepared by the American Federation of Labor showing approximately 2,500,000 workmen to have been unemployed last December, he says:

"The latest figures available for the state of New York indicate that the unemployment has been reduced to nearly one-half in this state, and I think that from previous experience the condition in the state of New York can be taken as a fair indication of the condition throughout the country."

That is to say, with business "booming to the everlasting skies" as a result of a beneficent tariff more than 1,000,000 workmen yet remain out of work. As the tariff is the prop and protecting agent of labor, it cannot be through any defect of its operation that this great industrial army is idle. The trouble seems to be that labor is forced to deal with conditions as they are. It cannot discount the future for immediate wages. From the point of view of the 1,000,000 workmen out of employment the industrial outlook is somewhat less brilliant than Speaker Cannon's rhetoric.

Not a People's Tariff.

There was, indeed, never any chance of obtaining at this extra session a decent revision of the tariff schedules. Public opinion was not well developed on that subject. Individual members of congress were under pressure from their respective states and districts. Only a handful of men took the large, national view. Every locality in the country—north, south east and west—was selfishly demanding the thing that it believed would make for its own interests. Nominally it was a Republican tariff, actually it was just as much Democratic as Republican, and in point of fact it was not partisan at all. It was simply a hodge-podge, on the plan of an old-fashioned river and harbor bill. The reductions of rates in so far as the consumer is concerned were more nominal than real. The great protected interests were all well looked after. The nominal reductions in iron and steel were little or nothing as compared with what the great American steel industry could readily have borne. The textile industries are more carefully protected than under the Dingley bill. There are, of course, some good things in the law, such as the relaxation of the taxes on foreign literature and art. It had been hoped that congress would at least grant the country a tariff commission which could be getting ready for a scientific revision at some time in the future. But this is exactly what the lobbyists of the great protected interests do not want. The present chaotic method of tariff making is the thing they are determined to retain, if possible.—Review of Reviews.

Law a Disappointment to All.

The new tariff law is a disappointment to the people of the country, and no less so to the masses of the Republican party than to those of other parties or the people at large. The opponents of this bill had the arguments all with them in congress and further debate had much better be left to the pleadings in the courts, rather than to public defense before the country; and we doubt very much the disposition of President Taft to enter upon any discussion before the people of the merits of this new tariff law, nor can we see any practical purpose in such discussion.—Salt Lake City Tribune.

Real Roosevelt Policy.

By hunting by himself He does not have to divide His game nor the \$1 a word He gets for describing His shots.—St. Louis Post-Dispatch.

The Marriage Vow

WHY SOME WOMEN AVOID CUPID

BY MISS DORA MAY MORRELL

Many women will not marry because they prefer to keep their individuality as they cannot if they wed. They do not care to change their entire scheme of living to suit some man. They are selfish? Perhaps, but at least they make no one else the victim of their fault.

The law in many states so discriminates against woman that it is an argument against marrying to those who know anything about it. The man, generous fellow, says at his wedding, "with all my worldly goods I thee endow," and the wife who believes it finds to her surprise that so far from being the recipient of all his worldly goods he owns even the garments she wears. The woman who sees her assistant's salary drawn by the worthless husband with whom she will not live, but who can live on her earnings, is not likely to think well of a condition which permits the injustice; she who reads of a child willed away from its mother for no better reason than the malice of an angry husband is likely to deliberate a little, for if nature teaches anything or proves anything, it is that the child is the mother's. When the law gives children to their mothers it will do much to make women wish to marry and to become mothers. It may seem doubtful if these points in the law would keep any woman from marrying, but they have.

It is true that woman loves her freedom, perhaps the more that it is so new to her. She realizes as no man can the blessings which have been his for ages to work as he will and climb where daring leads, and she longs to work, too, and to climb, to make herself something to the big world. She loves the possibility of this power so well that she will not resign it for an unworthy claimant. The man who turns an earnest woman from the delights of congenial work and independence must be a man whom she loves more than she does herself. No imitation man attracts her, for she counts the cost before she owns him "lord and master," and in spite of all the talk about the independent woman and how she has changed from the "clinging vine" variety she is like her of all bygone days in that she never does love until her heart tells her here is he who is lord over her.

Women have so long been forgiving

to man's infidelities that it may be surprising to be told that they have kept women from marrying, yet the statement is true. There are women who have what is called instinctive virtue and who have no comprehension and can have none of the average man's point of view. To such a one it is monstrous that a man can be untrue to her before marriage as after. She knows no reason why he more than she should seek illicit pleasures.

There are always in womanly women two motives in marriage strong within them, and it is often an actual pain to act counter to them. First of all is the desire for children. After a woman has reached 30, unless she is a shallow creature she regrets that she does not know motherhood.

A French woman once said to the writer: "Of course, marriage is a necessary evil. Women don't expect to be happy with their husbands, but then there are the children, and one lives again in them, and has joy even with the sorrow of years," and the woman who is childless loses all this, her birthright.

Then another inducement to the self-supporting woman toward matrimony is the desire to belong to somebody. It is not that she wants a home of her own—she has it as the fruit of her labor and the independence for which she pays the price; it is not even for the sake of man's society.

These two influences within woman-kind fight for man, and either or both is often stronger than her pleasure in her work, her love of independence, and all the reasons combined which keep her single. Then weigh the balance yet more with a man whom she admires, honors and loves, and there is but one reason why woman does not marry—she can not. Therefore, if man wishes the data concerning matrimony and educated women to change he has simply to make himself the man whom a woman of mind, heart and character will desire, and surely it is better to be chosen as a fine type of higher manhood than as the payer of bills. The man, not his money, is the compliment such a woman pays him when she ceases to be the woman who does not wish to marry. Let there be more men of that stamp and the woman will be unknown who does not wish to marry.

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MATRIMONIAL PARTNERSHIP

BY MRS. VIRGINIA VAN DE WATER

All the sentiment in the world does not mask the fact that marriage is a contract.

Nor does the marriage state lose one iota of its solemnity and beauty by being a business contract instead of a mere golden thread of very fragile and fragile love vows.

For only by following out the contract idea and the partnership clause therein implied can marital happiness be made certain and permanent.

Sentiment in married life is very beautiful. Without it such life is like song-words without music. But when sentiment ignores businesslike management of domestic life it lapses from sentiment (which is the essence of love) into sentimentality (whose first letter is its only connecting bond with "sanity").

True marriage should be a joint partnership in which "the party of the first part" and "the party of the second part" should (as in regular business firms) be permitted to do as he or she pleases, allowing to the other member of the firm the same privilege; so long as neither does anything to endanger that firm's strength and integrity.

Two men who enter business partnership do not quarrel daily as to which shall rule. There is no question of superiority or mastery. There is equality, and the harmony that nothing but equality can bring. Nagging, too, is a conspicuously absent quantity in the equation. Were two men to plunge into endless disputes as to which was really the ruler, and were they to seek to win each point by nagging, such a firm might, with rare good luck, endure for "one consecutive day."

Yet husband and wife who resort to the same unpleasant tactics are expected to remain as one until "death do them part."

If two people truly love each other more difference of opinion on a few or on many subjects is no bar to happiness. The little differences of opinion amount to no real difference, and with a tactful hand at the helm it is easy to steer around the rocks. These rocks are, after all, usually nothing more formidable than pebbles.

It is hard to understand why the early fathers did not enlarge the list of seven deadly sins to eight, in order to include nagging. Perhaps because the example of Samson's fall through much nagging was then so much fresher in people's minds as to render a separate warning on the subject less necessary than now. It is a sin that brings its own punishment. Note Kipling's warning to his countrymen,

who are prone to nag and worry the Hindu:

For the Christian, rises
And the Aryan smiles,
And it sear the Christian down,
Far more doth it wear down both
Nagger and naggee in the married
firm."

Another rock whereon many a goodly marital partnership has come to grief is the subject of money. I truly believe that the greatest drawback to married happiness between persons who love and trust each other is lack of money.

There is still another phase of married life wherein wife and husband might profitably take a lesson from business men: When two men have formed a partnership neither inquires into such details of the other's past as the latter would fain leave buried. Nor does either seek to regulate the personal actions of the other.

It is in like manner a great mistake, I think, for a woman to insist on knowing just where her husband has been, why he did not reach home at a certain hour and what acquaintanceships he has formed. I think a husband should allow his wife in all things (so far as her sex will permit) the same liberty of action he expects her to allow him. If he spends money foolishly, has clubs and other recreations, he should allow her to have her clubs, friends, tennis, etc., and should permit her to spend money for any feminine equivalent of the liquor or tobacco on which his own surplus pocket money is wasted.

I do not believe that if the average woman saw her husband was willing for her to have the same liberty as he himself demands, she would, as a rule, complain or scold as often as she does under other conditions. If a woman insists on being unreasonable and on complaining when the husband who gives her her own way takes his way in return she must expect that he will do as he pleases—and not tell her. That is the inevitable result of fault-finding and criticism.

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Has 22 Children in 27 Years.
Skowhegan, Me.—Announcement has been made that a daughter was born to Mr. and Mrs. Charles Dickey of Canaan, which is the twenty-second child born to them in 27 years. Mrs. Dickey was married when she was 14 years of age, and Mr. Dickey was only a few years her senior.

Main Things in a City.
Among the main things in a city are those connected with the waterworks.



"Wilt Thou Have This Woman to Be Thy Wedded Wife?"

Marshal handed him a slip of paper with the names of all three written on it.

"Allitson glanced at it, cleared his throat, and read the first part of the service."

"Bates," said I, in an undertone, "that's the best man who is holding the woman's hand. The other fellow is the bridegroom."

"S'pose he'll hand her over when the time comes."

"But he did nothing of the sort."

"I began to get fidgety as I heard the monotonous voice of Allitson droning out the service."

"John Johnson," said the Consul, "wilt thou have this woman to be thy wedded wife?"

"Bill," I whispered at Allitson's back, "Bill, you've got the wrong fellow."

"But Allitson did not hear me."

"To live together after God's ordinance," he continued.

"Johnson nodded every time the Consul paused, as he understood little English and nothing of the marriage service, and supposed he was properly performing the duties of best man."

"Kato Yoshi, wilt thou have this man?"

"Bill," cried I, digging Allitson in the back, "you've married the wrong man to that woman."

"Eh?" said Bill, turning astonished, disapproving eyes upon me. "What under heaven makes you act so, Charlie? This is a serious business."

"Bill's low, soft tones—peculiar to most deaf people—were filled with a plaintive remonstrance."

"Bill," I said rapidly in his ear, "I should say it was serious! You're hitching up the wrong pair. The other man is the bridegroom, the one with the hang-dog air."

"Ah!" muttered Allitson, "it's well you spoke when you did, or the matter would have been past mending. Now, then, are you John Johnson?"

"Ja."

"And you are Erich Erichsen?"

"Ja."

"If you are the man to marry this woman, take her hand and don't let go of it, so there'll be no mistake."

"Bates and I were stifling with laughter. Bill threw us one indig-